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EAST GERMAN WOMEN ACTIVE IN PUBLIC LIFE

51 ARE DELEGATES TO PEOPLE'S CHAMBER -- Tribuene, No 17, 2 Mar 50

The commemorate the 40th celebration of International Women's Day, the Deutsche Frauenverlag (Women's Publishing House) has issued a brochure containing factual information on women in public life in the German Democratic Republic (DDR).

There are 51 women delegates to the People's Chamber and two women are members of its presidium. Ten of the delegates also belong to the German Democratic Women's League. A woman is State Secretary in the Ministry of Public Education, and the Vice-President of the Supreme Court is also a woman.

In position from referent (specialist) upward, the DDR regime employs about 134 women. Brandenburg employs 217, Mecklenburg 239, Sachsen-Anhalt 175, Sachsen 1,162, and Thuringen 194, making a total of 2,141 [sic] women in leading positions in the public service.

The considerable number of women mayors in urban and rural communities constitutes an innovation in post-1945 developments. The five Laender of the DDR have 276 female burgomasters, 43 female Kreisraete (district counsels), 25 female Stadtraete (municipal counsels), and two female chief burgomasters.

The role of women in the judicial sphere is also very significant. As of 1 December 1949 the percentage participation of women in the judiciary system of the DDR was as follows:

Key employees in Ministries of Justice	13 percent
Other " " " " "	59.3
Judges	15.3
State's attorneys	9.7
Local government attorneys (Amtsanwalt)	6.7
Other judicial personnel	43.2
Total	39.4 percent

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WOMEN TO HAVE "REAL" EQUALITY -- Taegliche Rundschau, No 51, 1 Mar 50

In connection with International Women's Day on 8 March, Max Fechner, Soviet Zone Germany's Minister of Justice, declared that discrimination against women will be eliminated.

In future, for example, a wife will not be required to assume her husband's name. Spouses will be free to agree on a mutual name, possibly a hyphenated one, or they may each retain their own name.

Wives will no longer be obliged to work in the home or in their husbands' businesses, but will be entitled to choose professions of their own.

The husband will no longer have the right to sever a working agreement entered into by the wife. On the other hand, husband and wife will have equal responsibility for the financial upkeep of the household. If the wife performs any housework, the monetary equivalent of such performance will be deductible from her share of maintenance expenses.

Marital property rights are also subject to basic changes. In the future, the husband shall neither administer his wife's capital nor profit from it; the wife will have sole jurisdiction over the funds in her possession at the time of marriage or earned after that time.

With regard to authority over the children, the wife is also in a better position than before. Whereas formerly parental authority was vested in the father, in the future husband and wife will exercise this authority jointly.

WOMEN ON STAFF OF JENA UNIVERSITY -- Taegliche Rundschau, No 37, 12 Feb 50

An ardent exponent of women's equality since 1918, Dr Anna Lindemann, professor of contemporary history and dean of the faculty of social science at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, is credited with having played the major role in the "democratization" of the institution. Professor Lindemann is the only female member of the university's board of regents and is examiner-in-chief for all subjects dealing with contemporary social and political problems.

Another outstanding female faculty member of the University of Jena is Prof Dr (fnu) Juknat, deputy director of the university's Institute of Psychology, of which she has been in charge since the beginning of 1946. When Frau Juknat came to Jena in 1945 to lecture on psychology, she was confronted with the task of reorganizing the institute. She started with only one scientific assistant. Her lectures during the winter semester of 1945-46 were attended by 98 students; by summer 1946 attendance had risen to 224, and today her students number 448. She is currently at work on a textbook on teaching technique.

At present, the University of Jena has three women on its scientific staff, as professors, three as assistant professors (Dozenten), four as instructors, and six as foreign-language specialists. Five others, who work as assistants in the university institutes also lecture. Sixteen of these women are Ph Ds. The staff of the Workers' and Peasants' faculty includes ten women.

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POLISH OFFICERS' WIVES MUST WORK -- Polska Zbrojna, No 21, 21 Jan 50

At the Conference of the Military Chapters of the Liga Kobiet (Women's League), the wives of officers and noncommissioned officers were exhorted to bear in mind the fact that as part of the working class they must not shun manual labor. The Peoples' Government and the Army are constantly giving an increasing amount of aid to families of military personnel. The Liga Kobiet receives quarters and financial subsidies from the Army for nurseries, kindergartens, children's reading rooms, and trade courses. Only the working mothers should receive these benefits.

The wife of every officer must take an active part in the realization of the Six-Year Plan. Courses must be organized to train nurses, librarians, store managers, telephone operators. There must be no social stigma attached to factory work.

NEW FIELDS OPENED TO POLISH WOMEN -- Dziennik Polski, No 1, 1 Jan 50

Before the war, domestics constituted 46 percent of all women employed. Today women are employed in all branches of industry; 900,000 women are members of trade unions, 2,000 women hold positions on factory councils, and more than 3,000 women hold administrative positions in trade unions. Women hold positions as bailiffs, presidents of cities, directors of factories, engineers, scientists, and they constitute 40 percent of the students.

Under the Six-Year Plan, new fields will be open to women and complete social development made possible through the establishment of proper conditions for study and work, release from numerous domestic duties, and development of institutions for the care of mother and child.

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